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Agenda item 52 (a)

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, Granada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution

International Year of Planet Earth, 2008

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Agenda 21,[1] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[2] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015,[3]

Noting that the wealth of scientific information available on planet Earth remains largely untapped and hardly known to the public or to policymakers and decision makers,

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] Report of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1), chap. I, resolution 2.

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Convinced that education in Earth sciences provides humankind with tools for the sustainable use of natural resources and for building the scientific infrastructure essential for sustainable development,

Welcoming the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support the declaration of 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth with a view to highlighting the importance of Earth sciences,

Taking into account the crucial role the Year could play, inter alia, in raising public awareness of the importance for sustainable development of the Earth's processes and resources, disaster prevention, reduction and mitigation, and capacity-building for the sustainable management of resources, and its important contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

1. *Decides* to declare 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth;

2. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the lead agency and the focal point for the Year, to organize activities to be undertaken during the Year, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Union of Geological Sciences and other Earth science societies and groups throughout the world, and in this regard agrees that the activities of the International Year of Planet Earth will be funded from voluntary contributions, including from industry and major foundations mobilized by a consortium of international organizations, led by the International Union of Geological Sciences;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences for the achievement of sustainable development and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the progress of the preparations for the International Year of Planet Earth.